

## Highway 23 Gap Project

New London to Paynesville (South Gap)

### Overview

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Highway 23 is an important interregional corridor that is a key artery for the economy in the region. It provides the primary east-west route connecting Willmar to Interstate 94 and beyond. The segment of Highway 23 between Willmar and Interstate 94 is a distance of approximately 53 miles. Of these 53 miles, all but approximately 15 miles have been constructed as a four lane roadway. The ultimate vision for Highway 23 between Willmar and Interstate 94 is a continuous four-lane rural highway. The segment between New London and Paynesville is a part of that vision and is one of two remaining sections of two-lane.

### Benefits

Expanding Highway 23 from two-lanes to four-lanes will provide additional capacity, improve the movement of freight, and improve roadway safety. Expanding the highway would also provide the design consistency of a four-lane rural highway and help meet driver expectancy throughout the corridor. This corridor-wide consistency further enhances the mobility and safety benefits already provided by the expansion.

### Status

In 2014, Highway 23 received funds through the Corridors of Commerce program to complete the environmental review and layout and to begin purchasing right-of-way for expanding the segment between New London and Paynesville from two-lanes to four-lanes. Once the environmental review and layout are complete, further right-of-way acquisition and detail design could begin if funds become available. Currently, there are no plans to construct the four-lane because there is no funding available for the construction at this time. The environmental review and layout for the New London to Paynesville segment began in the summer of 2014 and is were completed in the summer/fall of 2016.

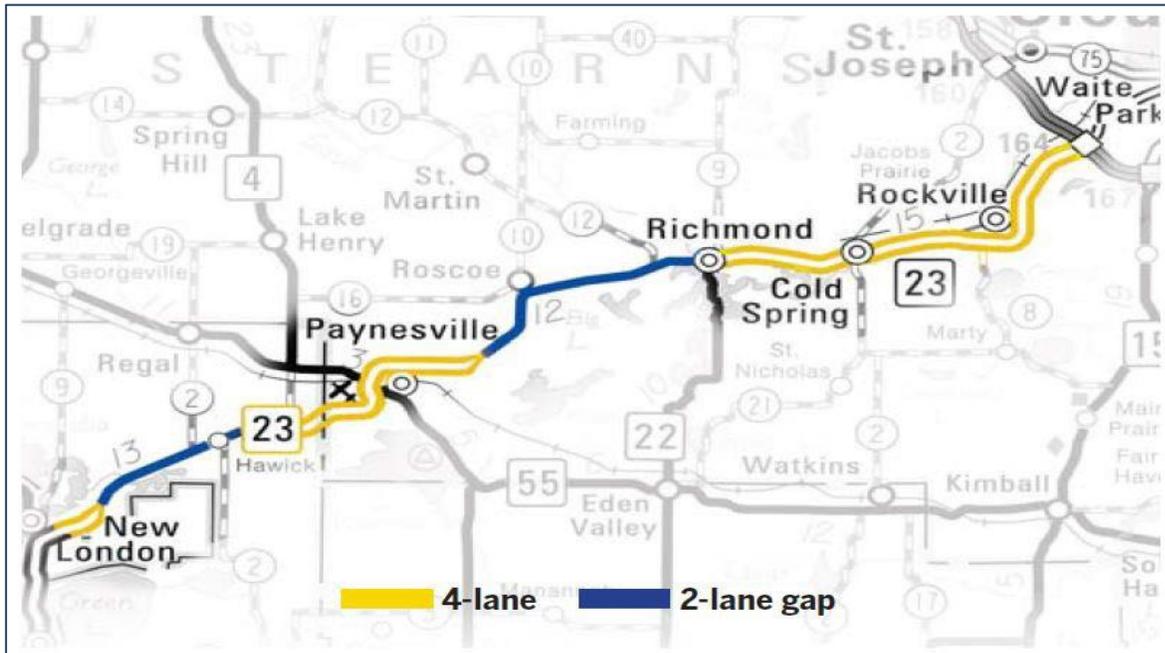
### Anticipated Timeline

Aug 2014	Begin environmental review
Late Summer/Fall 2014	Gather data (surveys, field reviews, location studies, etc.)
Oct 2014-Jan 2015	Prepare and analyze alignment alternatives
Jan 2015	Public Open House #1
Feb-June 2015	Finalize preferred alternative
April 2015	Public Open House #2
July 2015	Public Open House #3
Jan 2016	Public Open House #4
Nov 15-June 2016	Finalize environmental review & hold public meeting
May 17, 2016	Public Open House #5
June 2016	MnDOT issues Findings of Fact & Conclusion document

### Estimated Project Cost

Highway 23 Gap	Construction	Wetland mitigation, utility agreements, detour costs	Environmental review, surveys, engineering, contract administration, etc.	Right-of-Way	Total Project Cost Estimate
New London to Paynesville	\$37M to \$49M	\$2M to \$2.5M	\$7M to \$10M	\$4M to \$6M	\$50M to \$70M

### Project Area



### Website

[www.dot.state.mn.us/d8/projects/hwy23gapsnewlondonpaynesville/index.html](http://www.dot.state.mn.us/d8/projects/hwy23gapsnewlondonpaynesville/index.html)

### For More Information

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